

APPROVED
BEACH REDEVELOPMENT BOARD
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
Monday, August 15, 2016, 2:30 P.M.

MEMBERS	FEB 2016/JAN 2017			
	REGULAR MTGS		SPECIAL MTGS	
	Present	Absent	Present	Absent
Anthony Abbate, Chair	P 3	2	1	0
Ina Lee, Vice Chair	P 3	2	1	0
Abby Laughlin	A 2	3	1	0
Christian Luz	A 3	2	1	0
Thomas B. McManus	P 3	2	0	1
Andy Mitchell, Jr.	A 3	2	1	0
Judith Scher	P 4	1	0	1
Tim Schiavone	P 5	0	1	0
Shirley Smith	P 5	0	1	0
Aiton Yaari	P 2	3	1	0

Staff

Don Morris, Beach CRA Manager
Tom Green, Engineering Design Manager
Vanessa Martin, Business Manager
Cija Omengebar, Economic Development Aide
Jamie Opperee, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Presenters and Guests

Diana Alarcon, Director of Transportation and Mobility
Robyn Chiarelli, TMA Director

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum – Anthony Abbate

Chair Abbate called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

Quorum Requirement

As of this date there were 10 appointed members to the Board, which means 6 would constitute a quorum. It was noted there was a quorum at the commencement of the meeting.

II. Approval of BRB Minutes July 18, 2016 – Anthony Abbate

Motion made by Vice Chair Lee, seconded by Mr. Yaari, to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2016, minutes as presented. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

**III. Beach Transportation Projects Presentation – Diana Alarcon,
Transportation
and Mobility Director** (deferred until later in the agenda)

IV. BRB Budget Recommendation – Donald Morris, Beach CRA Manager

Mr. Morris referred to the budget documents that were distributed. He reviewed that the CRA Board directed staff to reorganize the CRA, and now they report directly to the City Manager. Since the CRA is more independent now, they had to put some functions into place that had previously been performed by Department of Sustainable Development.

Mr. Morris stated that the number of CRA full-time employees did not go up, but they are sharing the cost of “back-of-the-house” functions with the Northwest CRA. He mentioned that Ms. Martin is now the Business Manager and handles the procurement, human resources, and financials. Mr. Morris advised that the personnel expenditures will go up accordingly.

Mr. Morris pointed out that the tax increment revenue went up to \$8.4 million, due to increased assessed valuations. Because of that increase, they readjusted the projection for revenue.

Mr. Morris advised they anticipate the capital outlay for projects to be \$6.6 million for the current year, and all of that will go into the Master Plan projects. The Las Olas Corridor is estimated to cost \$45 million, the A1A Streetscape project \$6.7 million, and \$17.5 million of CRA funds for the Aquatics Center. He said they project having money left over, and they will ask the City Commission to assign updated project priorities.

Under the General Fund, Mr. Morris said the \$424,889 is for City employees – the CRA pays the City for the services of their (City) employees such as himself, Tom Green, and others. The \$260,000 is for CRA employees. Mr. Morris continued they will hire an engineer, who will be a CRA employee. They have also hired an administrative aide.

Mr. Morris proceeded to the four-year budget projection, noting they will be collecting TIF revenue through September 30, 2020. The revenue projection is increased from 5.6% to 6.9%. The total amount contributed to capital improvements over the four-year period will be approximately \$30 million in addition to what is already allocated to projects.

Mr. Morris stated that the majority of their budget will go to capital, and they will recommend reduced spending for events. He said he has discussed that with the BID, and they understand the situation.

Mr. Morris advised that for almost all departments, the City fees are based on the number of full-time employees they have per department or division. As an example,

the Beach CRA allocation for the City Attorney's office is almost \$8,000 per year. The allocation for all City Departments that the CRA works with are listed on the chart (General Fund Summary of Functions and Allocations Basis). He mentioned that the CRA by-laws specifically name the City Attorney as the CRA attorney.

Mr. Morris clarified that the allocations are different for these individuals who do not work full-time with the Beach CRA. Some work full-time for the CRA, but split their time between the Beach CRA and the Northwest CRA. The amounts are part of the City budget, not in addition to their salaries.

Mr. Morris said the first reading of the budget will go to the City Commission on September 7, 2016, and the second reading will be on September 20, 2016 (when it will be adopted).

Vice Chair Lee expressed concern over the amount of information given and her inability to absorb it all. Mr. Morris said the Board used to receive a more compact version, but staff was asked to add more detail and they did.

Motion made by Vice Chair Lee (for discussion purposes), seconded by Mr. Schiavone, to approve the proposed budget.

Mr. Schiavone wondered if there was an opportunity for unintentional mismanagement of the CRA dollars that are allocated toward City employees, such as the City Attorney. He wondered if the CRA dollars might not actually be used for them, and end up back in the General Fund. Mr. Morris said the allocations are based mostly on the number of employees per Division.

Ms. Martin clarified that since the CRA office does not cut checks, they have to obtain Procurement approval, and then the check is cut through Accounts Payable at City Hall. That provides for internal controls in the City. Ms. Alarcon added that the dollars being transferred out to the General Fund go into the General Fund Budget; the City then appropriates the dollars. She said it is a very stringent process and is audited annually.

Motion made by Mr. Yaari, seconded by Ms. Scher, to approve the proposed CRA budget as presented.

Chair Abbate said the presentation could have benefited from more cross-referencing to make it easier to understand.

In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

**III. Beach Transportation Projects Presentation – Diana Alarcon,
Transportation
and Mobility Director** (from earlier in the agenda)

Ms. Alarcon said she would be including information on downtown transportation, as that affects how people get to the beach.

Ms. Alarcon advised that the FEC railroad crossing on Broward Boulevard is undergoing work, and there will be other crossing closures throughout the City. In addition to the All Aboard Florida, they will also be creating Quiet Zones. That involves placing special equipment across the tracks to prevent vehicles or pedestrians and bikes from crossing. The Quiet Zone work should be done in October, and they hope to have the official designation by the spring of 2017.

Ms. Alarcon said the Quiet Zones will be implemented throughout Broward County. All funding is through All Aboard Florida and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Overall it is an \$11 million project.

Regarding the downtown area, Ms. Alarcon noted construction is underway on the Broward Boulevard Bridge near I-95, which will be a three-year project. The bridge will be raised up eight feet so that boats can pass through underneath. There will be three phases: raising the bridge, repaving, and then adding bike lanes, redoing sidewalks, adding pedestrian lighting, landscaping improvements, and crosswalk improvements.

Ms. Alarcon said they will see ADA improvements along the pedestrian elements of the bridge, and lighting should go in during the first two years. The resurfacing will be done when the bridge is finished.

Ms. Alarcon spoke about their new website, which is under construction. It will provide information on traffic in the City. She said she wished to give a presentation next month on the website.

Ms. Alarcon stated that the Wave streetcar project will go out to bid in October, 2016, as a "bid to build." It will be a 2.7-mile project, going from 6 Street to 17 Street. She said the route details were not yet established. An overall City parking study is currently underway that will take into consideration the Wave route, bicycle/pedestrian networks, transit networks, and trolley networks.

Ms. Scher asked what might be available for people who are going downtown for evening entertainment during the construction. Ms. Alarcon said there will be a major detour down Sunrise Boulevards, connecting with 7 Avenue to connect with the Broward Performing Arts Center. The type of routes will be on the detour map.

Ms. Alarcon said the Wave is a four-year project and will be a moving management of traffic - as new rail is laid, they would move on to the next section. There will be a total of 5.4 miles of new track, but the loop is 2.7 miles.

Vice Chair Lee commented that the projects are the cause of the problems with traffic. The City has not done a good job explaining to the residents why the traffic is so bad.

She said it would get worse before it gets better, and the citizens need to know why it is happening.

Chair Abbate thought it was a communication and publicity issue, and a public relations issue. He said the City's communication effort has been "horrible." He continued that nobody knows that it is the improvement projects that are causing the problem. There are no billboards or anything like that to let people know what is coming. Chair Abbate said that status updates on road closures are helpful, but something is needed that is inspiring. He recommended that the City Commission hire a professional PR firm to get the message out effectively.

Ms. Alarcon reported they got the FDOT permit for the Wayfinding program. The City is working on getting all signage up on the Barrier Island, and FDOT approved the signage that is already up. Ms. Alarcon added they are updating the 2004 Wayfinding study.

Ms. Smith pointed out that many projects get started but not finished, even while new ones are being added, citing DC Alexander Park as an example. Mr. Morris said the City Commission prioritized other projects ahead of DC Alexander Park. Ms. Smith also mentioned Fifth Street. She said the Hall of Fame was approved, but nothing is being done.

Vice Chair Lee asked Ms. Alarcon if she could send out the new Wayfinding sign designs since it has been a long time since they have seen them. She said there should be a "big deal" made when the signs are put up. Ms. Alarcon said there will be groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings for projects, and she will send a calendar for distribution to the Board.

Ms. Alarcon reported that A1A is still under construction and FDOT is doing a rehabilitation, resurfacing, and remilling (RRR) project from Mercedes River up to Sunrise Boulevard. At this time, they are doing the ADA improvements. Hopefully that will be done by January. Location of the bike lanes on A1A are under discussion.

Ms. Alarcon said that in the next few weeks, there will be boring underneath the Intracoastal and installation of a water main. That project will cut off Las Olas Circle for about four months. She has a meeting set up for July 22, 2016, with the contractor, Public Works, Utilities et al to discuss the project and its effects. Ms. Alarcon agreed to talk to the Venetian Condominium owners once she has specifics.

Chair Abbate reiterated the need for communication with the public about the benefits and convenience that the projects will bring.

Vice Chair Lee expressed concern about the Las Olas/A1A intersection. She said that when she goes there on Friday nights, she has to circle the Las Olas lot trying to find a parking spot for the Friday Night Sound Waves. When the garage is built, she will be going to the parking garage with her beach chair. There will be a tram (if approved by

the City Commission), but she wondered how long the tram would take to get to her destination.

Ms. Alarcon responded that they plan to have a waiting area at the garage where a person will board the tram. The tram will go to the Oceanside Park and circle back to the garage. Vice Chair Lee warned that many people will be wanting to ride the tram back to the garage after any public event.

Chair Abbate interjected that the City would add extra runs or trams for special events. Ms. Alarcon concurred and added that they had seen a video of the traffic on the Fourth of July. She admitted that the current exit plan is "lousy," and many departments/entities are working on a transportation exit plan for special events.

Vice Chair Lee stated that the original plan that EDSA put forth that had the parking garage on the south side is actually how people use the beach. She felt that since they are not doing that, everything is now "second best." She feared that the new plans would make it complicated for people to get to the Friday night event.

Chair Abbate commented that the oceanfront parking at A1A and Las Olas has to go. People park there now because there is a place to park. The new scenario is consistent with the CRA's plan to encourage pedestrian activity and activate the blighted areas in between the Intracoastal and the beach. He added that Fort Lauderdale is one of the last cities to get onboard with the pedestrian quality urban environment.

Vice Chair Lee asserted that the success of the project is contingent on the tram working "seamlessly."

Mr. Morris said they are committed to making the tram work. Secondly, he echoed Chair Abbate's comment that people park in a spot where they are used to parking. He said that situations change, and people adjust.

Chair Abbate suggested making a video showing someone taking the tram from the garage so people can visualize how it would work. The City needs to clear up the misinformation that has resulted in kickback from the residents.

Mr. Morris emphasized that the tram is part of the proposal and the site plan, which has conditions that have to be met in order to get approval. They are doing everything they can to accommodate the tram.

Chair Abbate said that even animations would help the public understand the project. Ms. Alarcon said they do not have the tools or dollars to make animations, but they obtained a grant through the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) for \$1.25 million and one of the elements is that type of modeling. Chair Abbate suggested hiring a multimedia student at a local university to create a video for them.

V. Old/New Business

Chair Abbate said he will write a letter to the City Commission since he will be out of town for their meeting on the following day. He will write about the unstructured public participation process in combination with lack of publicity/marketing about the project.

Mr. Schiavone suggested putting ads on the back of the Sun Trolleys to advertise the program, with emphasis on riding the tram instead of getting stuck in traffic. He said they need to let the City Commission know that they need have signage and information to inform the public of the project.

Vice Chair Lee advised she would go to the City Commission meeting and represent the Board.

Ms. Smith thought the area was not good for walking because she saw a homeless person lying on the ground there. It was pointed out that is City-wide problem.

Mr. McManus wondered if they had ever used a PR firm in the past, and Mr. Morris said for this project that part of the construction manager's team includes a public relations company. However, he said they will strengthen that effort so there is an extensive public outreach program.

Chair Abbate opened the floor to public comment on any agenda item at 3:51 p.m.

Jack Newton, Venetian Condominium 16th floor resident, said he sees the traffic on Las Olas every day. He noted that the parking lot has **nine** shade trees that are big enough to park under, and provides 250 parking spots. He said it costs "next to nothing." He expressed concern that if they remove the parking lot and replace it with a splash pond and sound shell, the people will spill out onto the street. Mr. Newton said they might as well close the last block of Las Olas. He suggested DC Alexander Park as a better place for a sound shell, and noted the high cost associated with changing the parking lot.

Art Seitz, resident, said the beach belongs to the 3 million residents of Broward County, not just residents of the Venetian. He spoke of an iconic parking garage being built in Pompano Beach and compared it to the garage envisioned for Las Olas. He said the City Commissioners have "no vision." He suggested monument signage at each entrance to the beach, such as the one in front of Parker Playhouse, at the cost of several hundred thousand dollars to let the public know what is going on. Mr. Seitz relayed that Lauderdale by the Sea received help from the University of Miami architectural students.

Chair Abbate closed the floor to public comment at 3:58 p.m., noting he did not disagree with many of Mr. Seitz's ideas, noting the redevelopment of Delray Beach. He thought the upcoming projects would address Mr. Seitz's concerns.

Mr. Yaari brought up the moratorium, and Mr. Morris reported he received a letter from the Central Beach Alliance and suggested putting it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Hearing no further business, Chair Abbate adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

[Minutes transcribed by J. Rubin, Prototype, Inc.]

Attachments:

CRA budget documents – Donald Morris